

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

Claim 3 was allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The objections to the drawings have been noted. New drawings will be filed when the application is allowed.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1 and 3-5 for informalities. The claims have been amended to overcome these objections.

In paragraphs 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yasutoshi et al. As to claim 1, the Examiner states that Yasutoshi et al. disclose a device comprising circuitry and detection devices (20). However, Yasutoshi et al. describe a print board (20) that communicates white and black key movement to optical indicators (25) operatively connected with flexible insulating strips (21/22). The flexible strips described by Yasutoshi et al. strictly provide conductive signal paths to the optical indicators. The flexible strip described by Yasutoshi et al. do not provide for detecting key movement.

Regarding claim 2, the Examiner states that Yasutoshi et al. disclose a plurality of flexible inserts (21,22) each of said inserts positionable between a key of the keyboard and a detection device. As discussed above, Yasutoshi et al. do not have a detection device, but have optical indicators. Further, Yasutoshi et al. have a flexible strip (21/22) that extends substantially along the full length of the key. Claim 2 has

been amended to recite that Applicant's "insert" is "disposed only at a back of the key."

Accordingly, it is believed that claim 2 is allowable over Yasutoshi et al.

Regarding claim 4, the Examiner states that this claim is disclosed in Yasutoshi et al. Fig. 3. Claim 4 is directed to a horizontally-mounted insert. However Yasutoshi et al. do not have a detection device. Nor, does Yasutoshi et al. have an insert "disposed only at a back of the key". Accordingly, it is believed that claim 4 is allowable over Yasutoshi et al.

Regarding claim 5, the Examiner states that this claim is disclosed in Yasutoshi et al. Fig. 3. Claim 5 is directed to small detection devices that are inserted behind a rear vertical surface of the black key and detect key movement. Again, Yasutoshi et al. does not disclose a detection device, let alone one that is behind the black key. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 5 is allowable over Yasutoshi et al.

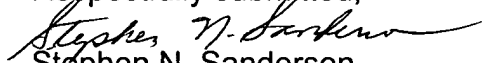
Regarding claim 6, the Examiner states that this claim is disclosed in Yasutoshi et al. Fig. 3. Claim 6 is directed to a cover (13) with a rectangular-shaped backside disposed between the black keys and fallboard (12). As discussed above, Yasutoshi et al. do not disclose a detection device for detecting key movement. Likewise, Yasutoshi et al. Fig. 3 do not disclose any rectangular-backed cover is inserted between black keys. The Examiner is requested to specify what the Examiner is referring to on Yasutoshi et al. Fig. 3.

In light of the above, it is believed all of the claims are allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection and objection have been avoided and/or traversed. It is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance and same is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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